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ZCPM-MIDEAST-LEAD ISRAEL (NO PICKUP, R-008) (2 TAKES)Z

TEL AVIV, AUG 20, REUTER -- ISRAELI ARMY OFFICERS MOVED INTO POSITION IN BEIRUT PORT TODAY TO RECEIVE TWO ISRAELI SERVICEMEN HELD PRI

SONER BY PALESTINIAN GUERRILLAS AND THE BODIES OF NINE SOLDIERS, THE MILITARY COMMAND SAID.

THE RELEASE OF THE PRISONERS AND RETURN OF THE BODIES WILL CLEAR THE WAY FOR THE PALESTINIANS AND THEIR SYRIAN ALLIES TO START LEAVING BEIRUT TOMORROW UNDER A U.S.-ARRANGED PLAN APPROVED BY THE ISRAELI CABINET YESTERDAY.

THE RELEASED MEN AND THE COFFINS WOULD BE FLOWN TO TEL AVIV, THE ARMY SAID.

THE TWO PRISONERS ARE PILOT AHARON AHIAZ, WHOSE SKYHAWK JET WAS SHOT DOWN EARLY IN ISRAEL'S JUNE INVASIO OF LEBANON, AND A SOLDIER WHO THE ISRAELIS SAY WAS KIDNAPPED IN BEIRUT ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

ISRAEL HAD SAID THE PALESTINIAN EVACUATION WOULD BE DELAYED UNTIL THEY WERE FREED AND THE BODIES WERE RETURNED.

THE ARMY SPOKESMAN LATER SAID THE HANDOVER, INITIALLY EXPECTED AT 12 N.M. (LOCAL TIME), WAS NOW NOT EXPECTED BEFORE 1 P.M. BECAUSE OF ''AN INE

PLICABLE DELAY.''Z

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